

February

Magic Lantern Society



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

T.H. McAllister, Optician, N.Y." slides used in geology courses

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Click Slide for more!

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Jack Judson



(Photo by Mark Greenberg)

It is with great sorrow we must report the passing of Jack Judson on January 10, 2017. Jack was a long time member and pillar of the Soc; his extensive knowledge and never-ending support for the Society will be greatly missed.

I don't know exactly when Jack first heard of and joined the Society, but the ML Bulletin of April 1985 reported Jack as a new member. Jack served as President for seven years and as Bulletin/Gazette editor two years.

Jack had the foresight to register the Society's URL of magiclaternsociety.org back in 1998 and explained what he saw as the importance of establishing an on-line presence for the Society at the 1998 Cleveland Convention, before any others were thinking of it. Jack personally paid for and managed the Society website for the first five years. This foresight

established an URL that still shows up at the top of search engine lists whenever there is a search entered on the subject of magic lanterns in this crowded internet world.

Also in 1998 Jack published *A Guide to Restoration and Preservation of Magic Lanterns and Lantern Slides for the Caring Collector*, based on his extensive personal experience with collecting and restoring lanterns and slides, which remains a most useful guide today.

Jack acquired and maintained an extensive collection and opened the Magic Lantern Castle in 1992, maintaining it and welcoming world-wide researchers.

He hosted our Society Conventions at the Magic Lantern Castle in his beloved San Antonio in 1992 and 2004, and was awarded the title Honorary Life Member in 2004 for his dedication and support to the Society.

On behalf of the Society I would like to express our condolences to his wife Linde, who we met at several conventions, and to his family.

Ron Easterday, President

The Society will prepare a memorial to Jack in a future issue of the *epub* or *Gazette*. If you have remembrances of Jack or photos you would like to share, please forward them to Kentwood Wells at kentwood.wells@uconn.edu

Wooster's Fossils of the Week

Geological Magic Lantern Slides from the 19th Century (Part I)

Mark Wilson November 25th, 2016

<http://woostergeologists.scotblogs.wooster.edu/2016/11/25/woosters-fossils-of-the-week-geological-magic-lantern-slides-from-the-19th-century-part-i/>



A blog from faculty and students of the Department of Geology at The College of Wooster

<http://www.wooster.edu/about/>



The Magic Lantern Slides are 4×8 inches with the image on glass fixed in a thin slab of wood with metal rings. These are chromolithograph slides, each stamped "T.H. McAllister, Optician, N.Y.". McAllister was the most prominent of many American producers of lantern slides in the late 19th century.

Question about Eureka Drama

From Mark Sullivan

mark@amishexperience.com

Hello!

I have stumbled across a complete set of the Eureka Drama "Y" version in it's original case and was wondering if any of you kind folks might be able to put a value on it. It dates to 1914 based on my research and it has the original script in three volumes.

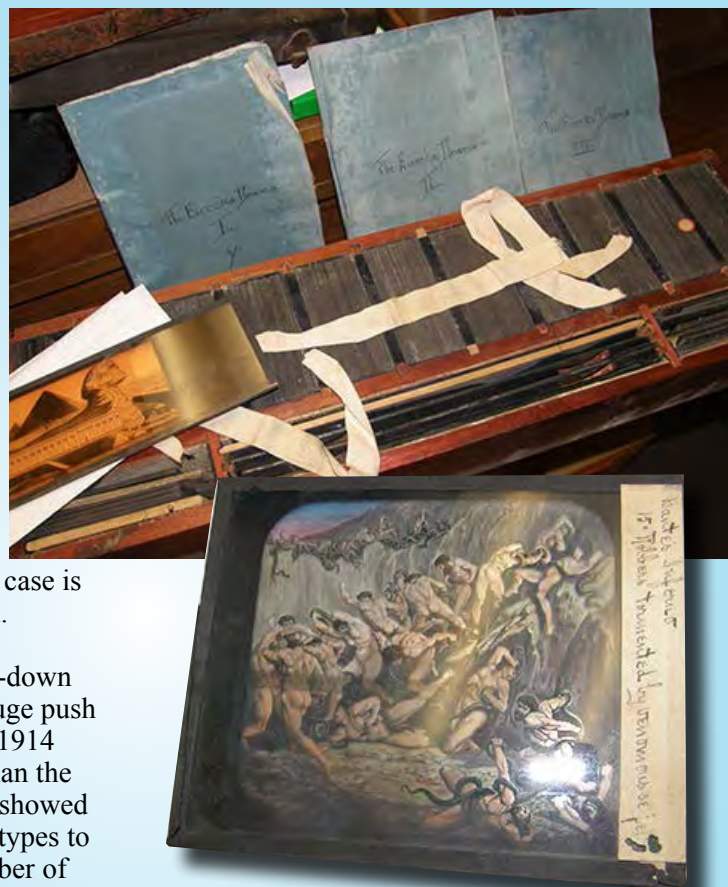
Any assistance would be appreciated!

Thanks,
Mark Sullivan

Here are some pictures. The wooden case is original, all slides are original as well.

From my research this was a watered-down version of the Jehovah's Witnesses huge push in the early 1900's. This set dates to 1914 and was used to reach more people than the larger Photo-Drama of Creation they showed in major theaters. There were "three types to choose from, each available in a number of languages: The "Eureka X" set had all the recorded narration and music. The "Eureka Y" set contained all recordings plus beautifully tinted slides. And the "Eureka Family Drama" which was intended for home use. Inexpensive phonographs and projection equipment could also be obtained".

Thanks,
Mark Sullivan – Artistic Director
Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm



Thank you Mark.

It looks fascinating. I have often noticed that religious slides are usually beautiful and very high quality. We have some really fine Life of Christ images. Just a pity it is difficult to use them in today's shows. I have a friend in UK who decided to, and explained to his audience about the quality etc. To those who were still awake, that is! He was quite new to giving shows at the time.

Regards
David



Size of Slides

From: Shane Balkowitsch

shane@balkowitsch.com

Good morning, I am a wet plate artist and am interested in purchasing a Magic Lantern for showing to the college students that come to my studio. I would like to make the plates myself with the historic process and my question is, how large do certain models come for certain size plates, 4x5 or 5x7" ever an option?

From David Evans

Good Day Shane

Magic lanterns generally show slides of 3.25" x 4" (North American and some European formats) or 3.25" x 3.25" (British format). Photographic images would have been taken either on quarter-plate negatives or half-plate negatives, reduced in the dark room to fit the slide format. The slide image is generally 3" square, the rest of the slide being taken up with a mask, title, manufacturer's name etc. To show larger formats you could use an epidiascope, overhead projector or a horizontal enlarger.

Hope this helps.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada



Miscellaneous For Sale

From M. Albert
marv7@earthlink.net

Years ago I attended a collector's event in Seattle. I'd like to sell a few small items. Is another such event scheduled?

I will make and send photos of various objects, including a mutoscope, a few lantern projectors, and an antique french stereo camera and viewer after the holidays. I've enjoyed collecting and living with objects that have to do with the history of photography and film for many years. I want to find others who would like to purchase and live with them as well.

Thanks again.

Marvin



Rare Leica waterproof camera case \$300.00 Plus shipping



Short lantern projector \$150.00 Plus shipping;



Mutoscope with stand and title card frame (heavy to ship about \$1,550.00, but pick up or packing and shipping costs added)



Vintage french stereo camera \$300.00



Taller lantern one \$185.00 Plus shipping;

interested ask you for extra details etc. marv7@earthlink.net



4 x 3.25 Slide Viewer

From: Bill Houston

billhouston56@fuse.net

Hello, I have recently acquired quite a few magic lantern glass slides that I would like to view, but I don't know that I want to buy an antique viewer. Is there anyone out there who makes more modern viewer for 4 x 3.25 slides? Either to project them on a wall or to look at them through the viewer itself? Would appreciate any help you can give me. Thank you, Bill

From David Evans

Hello Bill

Thank you for your enquiry. A good question! I don't know of any new projectors that can show that format, and if there were, they would be very expensive. Certainly viewers were available back in the early part of the 20th Century, but again, I doubt if there are new ones available now. An overhead projector could be used. You could make a mask with the appropriate size cut-out and place the slide there. Be careful about the heat though. Some overhead projectors use very hot lamps. An epidiascope could also be acquired quite cheaply and would do the job. Keep an eye on eBay and you will see what prices typically are. Often you can get given epidiascopes!

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada



From David Collins

davidacollins43@gmail.com

Years ago I purchased several boxes of what I believe to be Magic Lantern slides. They are black and white and are photographs I believe. They came from a military collection and depict soldiers and sailors from the World War 1 era. I am trying to determine their value. Can you assist me?

From David Evans

Hello David

Could you send me a few pictures of them please. There are so many sizes and varieties of slides that images are the simplest means of identification. If you could include any details such as titles on the slides, makers' names or logos etc that would help too.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

From David Evans

Thanks David. They appear to be 3.25" x 4", which is the usual format for US slides. They most probably have historic value, which may not translate into monetary value. Did you want to sell them? If so, we could add them to our monthly E-Publication which goes to all our members, and suggest offers. There may well be a member who collects WW1 slides. If you just want an idea of the value, I suggest you search eBay for similar items.

Regards and thank you for the images.

David

About Slides



From: David Collins

Here are two pictures of my slides. Almost all of them are of a military nature, depicting scenes from WW1. Many thanks for looking at them for me.



I would like to sell them. They have been sitting in my garage for years in their original wooden boxes. I have about 200 of them.

Rough Riders & Teddy R + The Maine Slides

From Kirsten

kirstenjs@gmail.com

I've a set of 5 glass slides measuring approx 3x4". Photographs of Teddy Roosevelt, the Rough Riders, the Maine (2) & Liberty & the American Flag. Liberty is the one that isn't a photograph. All but the Maine exploding are black & white. "Made and Sold by Sears & Roebuck" "Cheapest Supply House on Earth, Chicago, Ill". Plus skinny labels with the titles of each on the edges.

Are these unusual? I've been trying to find similar with Google & eBay, but none are like what I'm finding. Teddy R is in a tuxedo & it's a 3/4 body shot. Posed & probably dates to his term as President.

Let me know if you have ever seen these, or what the value may be. please? They're in very good condition. Thanks a bunch! Kirsten

Hi David,

I'm attaching scans of each. They're just my first attempt, and my scanner is just for paper, and nothing that has a depth of field. I'll see what I can do with my camera this weekend. Perhaps Designer Eric has some suggestions for obtaining the best image?

I'm not seriously thinking of selling them yet, but when that day comes I'll let you know. My Great Aunt was an antique dealer, and she had a huge box of these slides. She had given me the whole box, then must have regretted it and asked me to return them to her. She said I could keep these.

Thank you ever so much for your quick reply, and the offer to help sell them. Collectors are such wonderful people.

Kirsten



From David Evans

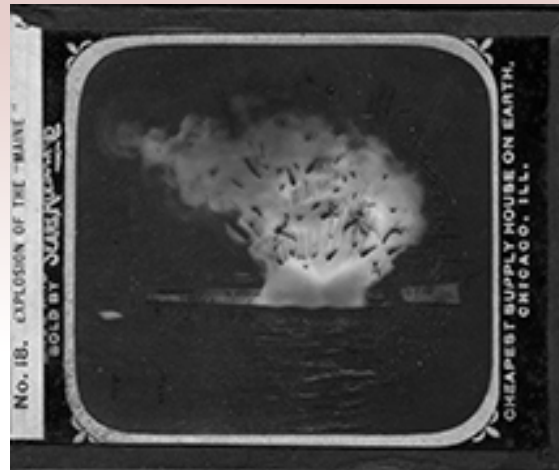
Dear Kirsten

Thank you for contacting us about your slides. The size. 3 1/4" x 4" is the standard American format for lantern slides, which is good. The subject matter is not something I have personally come across before, but bear in mind that every subject under the sun was portrayed on lantern slides back then. Millions were produced in that format. The fact that Sears produced them I think implies that they were a very popular subject at the time, though they are



continued next page

Rough Riders & Teddy R + The Maine Slides continued



quite probably of some historic interest nowadays. I assume you are interested in the rarity and potential value rather than trying to sell them. That being so, we could include them in our next E-Publication, which goes monthly to all our members. Could you please, if possible, send me a few images of them that we could include? If you do want to sell them, we could add that they are open to offers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada



Other Sears Roebuck Slides

Slides from Song Slide Set



MEMBER

Research
Request

I am currently researching the suite of four lantern slides that reproduce the figurative details and some of the surrounding landscape elements in the prints that were made by the American engraver James Smillie (1807-85) after Thomas Cole's (1801-48) famous series of allegorical paintings, *The Voyage of Life*, and would appreciate hearing from collectors who own, or know the whereabouts of one or more of the tinted or black and white wood-framed or economy format slides from this series. Posters, broadsides, newspaper announcements or related 19th or early-20th century references to public or private lantern-slide shows that included these slides in a program are also eagerly sought.

I can send you images of the four slides if that would be helpful.

Thanks you for your help.

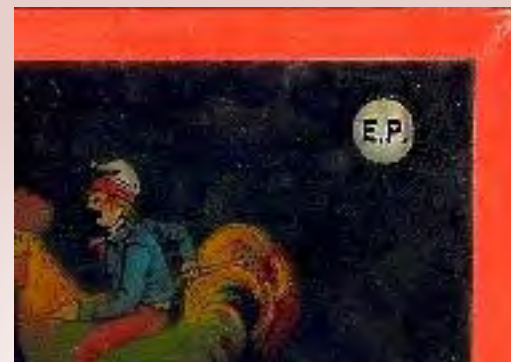
Paul D. Schweizer, Ph.D.
Museum Director Emeritus
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute
pschweiz@mwpai.edu

*If you have any
information please
contact Paul D.
Schweizer, Ph.D.
pschweiz@mwpai.edu*



Inquiry
From the Web Site

Meaning of EP on Slides?



From Harriot Blanchard

harriotblanchard@gmail.com

Please can you explain what these initials
refer to on slides?

many thanks in advance

best wishes

harriot

From David Evans

Hi Harriot

Thank you for contacting us. EP is the mark
of the German toy manufacturer Ernst Plank
of Nuremberg. They were founded in 1866
and made tin plate magic lanterns and slides
up to the 1920s.

Hope that helps.

David Evans

Secretary-Treasurer

Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

From Lori Shields

Lori@briarbush.org

I work for Briar Bush Nature Center in Abington Township, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. In preparing a history of Briar Bush I discovered boxes of Magic Lantern slides stored in our basement. There are hundreds of color slides and black and white slides, and I have no idea what to do with these! Some are damaged and broken but most seem to be in good shape.

One of the founders of Briar Bush, Florence Griscom, gave birding and nature talks using these slides. Florence passed away in 1961, but I've discovered newspaper accounts of her presentations in other archives.

Can the Magic Lantern Society provide any help or instruction for how to evaluate and store these slides? We do not have a projector but have looked at the slides by laying them on a light table. There are so many gorgeous images! I'd hate to lose them.

Thank you!

Briar Bush Nature Center
1212 Edgehill Road, Abington, PA 19001
<http://briarbush.org/>

From David Evans

Hi Lori

Thank you for your interesting message. As far as storage goes, they should be kept in a dry environment, as damp is one of the main enemies of glass plate images. It should also be relatively dust free and the slides should not be exposed to continuous light (i.e. not in a window or continuous light box/table). It does sound like a fine archive and if possible should be kept together with any notes or details of Florence so that the information is not lost to future historians. We do have members in the Philadelphia area, and it may be that one of them could help with advice and maybe help catalogue them too. I suggest we put the matter in our next monthly E-Publication, which goes to all our members, and it may be that someone will volunteer

Help With Hundreds of Slides



Thank you, David. That information is very helpful.

Mrs. Griscom was a teacher before her marriage in 1897, and she kept teaching throughout her life, though not formally at a school. Her presentations were popular in this area, and I'm sure the Keystone slides were useful to her. We have other sets, and over time I hope to inventory them all.

I look forward to hearing what response comes from the E-publication.

Thank you, again!



to assist you. I see what you mean! The Post-It notes should peel off easily, with luck. You can clean the dust from the slides with a slightly moist cloth or sponge. If you do it quickly the passe part out black

Attached are photos that I hope will convey a sense of what we have at Briar Bush Nature Center. We have two long wooden boxes of Magic Lantern slides, as well as some smaller boxes, and one or two scary cardboard boxes used for storage.

Unfortunately, nearly all of these have open tops, so the slides are exposed to dust. At some point in the past, someone put Post-It notes directly on some of the slides as a way to leave markers and notes. I'm too afraid to even peel those Post-Its from the slides. They are stored in a basement room, with two very small windows. There is a dehumidifier running in the space. It's very dusty and disorganized. We have recently brought on a volunteer, a former librarian with some archiving experience at a local university. She is helping us with the papers, photographs, books and other ephemera. We have hundreds of Magic Lantern slides and are at a loss for how to preserve them.

Thank you so much for your advice. If I can provide more information, please let me know.

Lori Shields
Volunteer Coordinator



binding tape should not be affected. Let them dry thoroughly before returning to their boxes.

Happy New Year According to Chinese Zodiac Cycle

From Machiko Kusahara, Ph.D.

Machiko Kusahara, Ph.D.
Waseda University
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<http://www.f.waseda.jp/kusahara/media/>

The Year of the Rooster 2017

This January denotes the beginning of the Year of the Rooster, defined by the Chinese zodiac cycle.

The Year of the Rooster will begin on January 28, 2017.

This year the festivities are set to end on February 2.

Chinese New Year always falls between the end of January and mid-February.

Each year is denoted by a different symbol from the Chinese 12 year animal zodiac.



Silent Film Advertisement/Transparencies

From Megan Oliver

megan.oliver@purchase.edu

I'm researching an odd collection I found here at SUNY Purchase College. Its 132 silent film slides, on plastic transparencies. The colors are very muted, and I can't find information about the coloring process used at the time (the slides date from 1917-1923). The size is also odd: 7 x 7cm, including the cardboard mount. I imagine these would have been used as trailers in between movies at a nickelodeon, but beyond that I don't have much information. Whoever salvaged them here at Purchase is long gone, no archival paperwork.

Any help would be much appreciated,

Megan Oliver
Digital Collections Curator
SUNY Purchase College

more from Megan

The other, non-coming attraction transparencies don't have identifying information and/or a way forward in terms of research. At least, not right now. I've scanned another collection of song slides as well, and those are glass lantern slides for sure. I will most likely be in touch again if I get stalled researching those.

From David Evans

Hello Megan

Sounds interesting. As you may know, coming attraction slides were used right from the very start of the movie era in the 1890s. Generally they were of the conventional slide format of 3.25" x 4". As a general rule smaller formats and plastic transparencies came in around the 1930s, but if yours are advertising movies of the silent era then they are obviously much earlier than that.

There is a Facebook group forum specifically for those interested in coming attraction slides and it may be that if you post a query on that group someone may be able to come up with an answer.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/314233788614071/>

We can add your query to our next monthly E-Publication, which goes to all our members, and one of them may come up with some thoughts on the matter. If you do find out anything, could you please share it with us! Could you send me an image or two of them?

Nice scans, Megan. You wouldn't notice any colour shifting.

We do have a member who is one of the leading authorities on song slides and has a collection of several thousands of them. If you get stuck with your research do let us know. We could probably put you in touch.

Thank you and good luck.

David Evans

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<http://sunypurchaselibrary.omeka.net/exhibits/show/tmib/tmibp1>

A Big Thank You to the following:

Marvin Albert	Machiko Kusahara
Shane Balkowitsch	Megan Oliver
Harriot Blanchard	Jacques Prenez
David Collins	Lori Shields
David Evans	Paul D. Schweizer
Bill Houston	Mark Sullivan
Kirsten	

for contributing to this month's issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



This is also the time for membership renewals. Payment may be made by US\$ check (to Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada) or by PayPal (US\$ funds please!) to: secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org Renewal fees are generally \$40, or \$25 if you are a student.

Thank you in anticipation.

David Evans

Secretary/Treasurer

Magic Lantern Society of USA & Canada

Silent Film Advertisement/Transparencies continued

From Larry Cederblom

Helow Megan,

By the size of the slides I'm thinking these might be reproductions of lantern slides using medium format film. There are 35 mm slides available of reproductions of various lantern slide images. Also the fact that the colors are shifted indicate a common problem of Ektachrome slide film over time.

Larry

To the right is a medium format 6x6cm slide in a 70mm x 70mm mount. Cardboard, plastic and metal mounts were available.



6x6cm slides, sometimes called 2.25 inch square format. Cardboard mat was standard but plastic and metal mounts were available.

From Megan Oliver

Hi,

Thank you both for the information. As an archivist without a specialty in slides, the context is enormously helpful.

I've curated a digital exhibition with minimal information about the coming attraction slides here, if you want to include it in the society query or look at the scans: <http://sunypurchaselibrary.omeka.net/exhibits/show/tmib/tmibp1>

Cheers,

Megan Oliver, Digital Collections Curator
Digital Collections Center, SUNY Purchase
College Library

Bonne Année Happy New Year

From Jacques Prenez

contact@cinetoys.fr

